

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method of treating diarrhea, the method comprising administering to a mammal at risk of diarrhea an amount of a lactic acid bacterium of genus *Bifidobacterium* effective to prevent infection of intestinal cells of the mammal due to a rotavirus.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 10 wherein the *Bifidobacterium* is selected from the group consisting of *Bifidobacterium longum* and *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 10 wherein the *Bifidobacterium* comprises *Bifidobacterium CNCM I-2168*.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 10 wherein the *Bifidobacterium* is administered via an ingestible carrier.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 13 wherein the ingestible carrier includes the *Bifidobacterium* in an amount ranging from about 10^5 cfu/g to about 10^{12} cfu/g.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 13 wherein the ingestible carrier comprises a food composition selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milk, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formula and pet food.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method of preventing infection of intestinal cells of a mammal at risk of infection due to a rotavirus, the method comprising administering to the mammal a composition including a therapeutically effective amount of a *Bifidobacterium* strain.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 16 wherein the composition includes about 10^5 cfu/g to about 10^{12} cfu/g of the *Bifidobacterium* strain.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 16 wherein the composition comprises a food composition selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milk, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formula and pet food.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 16 wherein the composition comprises a pharmaceutical composition selected from the group consisting of a tablet, a liquid bacterial suspension, a dried oral supplement, a wet oral supplement, a dry tube feeding and wet tube feeding.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 16 wherein the *Bifidobacterium* strain is selected from the group consisting of *Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*, and *Bifidobacterium CNCM I-2168*.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A food composition comprising one or more *Bifidobacterium* strains capable of preventing infection of intestinal cells inofa mammal due to a rotavirus.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The food composition according to Claim 21 wherein the food composition is selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milk, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formula and pet food.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The food composition according to Claim 21 wherein the food composition includes about 10^{11} cfu/g or less of the *Bifidobacterium* strains.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The food composition according to Claim 21 wherein the food composition includes about 10^5 cfu/g to about 10^{11} cfu/g of the *Bifidobacterium* strains.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The food composition according to Claim 21 wherein the *Bifidobacterium* strains are selected from the group consisting of *Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*, and *Bifidobacterium CNCM I-2168*.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more *Bifidobacterium* strains capable of preventing infection of intestinal cells of a mammal due to a rotavirus.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 26 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is selected from the group consisting of a tablet, a liquid bacterial suspension, a dried oral supplement, a wet oral supplement, a dry tube feeding and wet tube feeding.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 26 wherein the pharmaceutical composition includes about 10^{12} cfu/g or less of the *Bifidobacterium* strains.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 26 wherein the pharmaceutical composition includes about 10^7 cfu/g to about 10^{11} cfu/g of the *Bifidobacterium* strains.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 26 wherein the *Bifidobacterium* strains are selected from the group consisting of *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*, *Bifidobacterium longum* and *Bifidobacterium CNCM I-2168*.